

**Protecting your home from wildfire starts with you.
Seven Steps to Prepare for Wildfire Season:**

- 1. Create defensible space around your house.** Remove leaf and pine needle accumulation along with other flammables within at least 30 feet of the house.
- 2. Cut down trees to create open space around your house.** By ensuring that trees or clumps of trees are properly spaced (suggested 20 feet apart at the canopy), you can help prevent flames from traveling from tree to tree in a solid front—or crown fire. Properly thinning trees within 125 feet of your home and eliminating those branches that overhang the roof can improve the chances of protecting your home from an advancing wildfire.
- 3. Remove tall, dry grasses from the surrounding property.** Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.
- 4. Remove leaves and pine needles from your roof and gutters.** During a fire, debris on the roof and/or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.
- 5. Remove “ladder fuels.”** Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6’-10’ from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.
- 6. Check your gas-powered equipment and garden hoses to be sure they are in good repair.** Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly—away from dry, flammable grasses. Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure.
- 7. Prune bushes and shrubs regularly.** Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability, and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire.

All information is supplied and approved by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, a consortium of wildland fire agencies that includes the USDA-Forest Service, the Department of Interior, the National Association of State Foresters, the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association.